

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4433

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE--UPDATE

REF: (A) STATE 229742; (B) MANAGUA 4419

1.SUMMARY: AT THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK SINCE THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE AND CENSORSHIP, THE OPPOSITION PRESS CONTINUES HEAVY BARRAGE OF CRITICISM OF GON, WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA RESPONDING, AND THE LAST PRISONERS ACCUSED OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN REPORTEDLY TURNED OVER TO CIVIL COURTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK SINCE THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE AND CENSORSHIP, THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA CONTINUES ITS HEAVY BARRAGE OF CRITICISM. AMONG THE NUMEROUS ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY IN LA PRENSA ATTACKING THE GON AND ITS POLICIES ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. "DANCE OF THE MILLIONS--UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF CENSORSHIP" (SEPT. 22, PAGE 1). THIS ARTICLE IS A HARD-HITTING ATTACK ON THE GON'S BORROWING POLICIES AND ON APPROVAL OF GON-CONTRACTED EXTERNAL LOANS BY THE NICARAGUAN CONGRESS DURING THE PERIOD OF CENSORSHIP.

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THE ARTICLE BEGAN BY REFERRING TO THE NICARAGUAN CONGRESS AS A "CIRCUS" DOMINATED BY CHARLATANS AND WENT ON TO DENOUNCE THE NUMEROUS EXTERNAL LOANS AUTHORIZED BY THE CONGSOESS THAT, IN ITS VIES, "SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED THE COUNTRY'S SOLVENCY AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS." THE ARTICLE SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCED THE LAON OF US\$40 MILLION CONTRACTED WITH THE BANCO EXTERIOR OF SPAIN IN OCT 1976, AND THE SECOND LOAN OF US\$40 MILLION, ALSO CON-

TRACTED WITH THE BANCO EXTERIOR OF SPAIN IN MAY 1977, PRINCIPALLY FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPANISH HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY QUOTING EXTENSIVELY CRITICISMS OF THE LAON (INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF PROFITEERING) MADE IN CONGRESS BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY DEPUTIES EDUARDO CHAMORRO CORONEL AND ALBERTO SABORIO AND CONSERVATIVE SENATOR ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ URTECHO.

B. SEPT. 22, PAGE 1. AN AP STORY FROM SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, ABOUT STATEMENT BY ONE CARLOS CUADRA, DESCRIBED AS A CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY, DEMANDING SOMOZA'S REPLACEMENT. (WE LEARNED FROM A FBIS CABLE THAT THE PERSON IN QUESTION WAS ACTUALLY CARLOS LARGAESPADA, A CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY KNOWN FOR STRONG OPPOSITION TO SOMOZA.)

C. SEPT. 22, PAGE 2. PEDRO J. CHAMORRO EDITORIALIZED ABOUT SOMOZA'S HEALTH, SAYING THAT SOMOZA HAS NOT GOVERNED FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FULLY PERFORM THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE.

D. SEPT. 23, PAGE 1. ARTICLE ABOUT ABUSIVE TREATMENT OF A WOMAN ACCUSED OF THEFT BY THE POLICE. THE MANAGUA CHIEF OF POLICE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE WOMAN HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT THE ILL TREATMENT AND THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS IN PROGRESS.

E. SEPT. 23, PAGE 1. ARTICLE CRITICIZING A DEBT OF OVER US\$62.4 MILLION INCURRED BY THE GON ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (INFONAC). ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, INFONAC HAS MIS-

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MANAGED ITS FINANCES AND THE INDEBTEDNESS INCURRED "DEEPLY COMPROMISES THE COUNTRY AND ITS PRESTIGE." (COMMENT: THIS MAY REFER TO A ROLL-OVER OF EARLIER DEBTS.)

F. SEPT. 23, PAGE 1. A LETTER FROM LIBERAL SENATOR ORLANDO MONTENEGRO ACCUSING HIS ARCHENEMY CORNELIO HUECK, PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS AND POLITICAL SECRETARY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, OF TRYING TO USURP THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA. HUECK IS ACCUSED OF "VIOLATING THE LEGAL STATUTES OF OUR PARTY WITH THE OBJECT OF ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE NATIONALIST LIBERAL PARTY FOR SHAMEFUL ENDS (FINES INCONFESABLES)." (COMMENT: MONTENEGRO AND HUECK HAVE VIED FOR YEARS FOR THE POSITION OF LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AFTER SOMOZA. HUECK HAS SURGED FAR AHEAD IN RECENT YEARS.)

G. SEPT. 23, PAGE 2. CHAMORRO STATED IN AN EDITORIAL THAT SENATOR KENNEDY'S AUGUST 5 SPEECH WAS A WARNING TO BOTH SOMOZA AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION. (LA PRENSA PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF KENNEDY'S SPEECH ON SEPT 20.)

H. SEPT. 24, PAGE 1. ANOTHER ATTACK BY SENATOR MONTENEGRO ON CONGRESS PRESIDENT HUECK. MONTENEGRO ACCUSED HUECK OF TAKING

ADVANTAGE OF HIS POLITICAL INFLUENCE TO ENRICH HIMSELF BY ACQUIRING LAND AT LOW PRICES FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF NINDIRI, NEAR MASAY, AND SELLING HIS RIGHTS TO IT TO THE CENTRAL BANK AT A FABULOUS PROFIT. MONTEGEGRO QUOTED ANONYMOUS DOCUMENTS SENT TO HIM FROM NINDIRI THAT INDICATED THAT HUECK HAD LEASED 100 MANZANAS OF NINDIRI EJIDOS (COMMON LANDS) FOR US\$11,50 A YEAR AND THEN SOLD HIS RIGHTS TO THE CENTRAL BANK FOR US\$134,300. (MONTENEGRO'S MOTION TO HAVE A SENATE COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE TRANSACTION WAS DEFEATED BY ONE VOTE.)

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4434

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I. SEPT. 24, PAGE 1. AN ARTICLE REPORTING THE COMPLAINT BY THE FAMILY OF PABLO MORALES CRUZ, OF EL NARANJO, DEPARTMENT OF ZELAYA, STATING THAT MORALES CRUZ WAS ARRESTED BY A GN PATROL ON AUG 23 AND HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.

J. SEPT. 24, PAGE 1. A CARTOON SHOWING CHILEAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET (WITH SKULLS HANGING FROM HIS UNIFORM) TALKING TO ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA, SAYING: "WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO MAINTAIN THE QUORUM NOW THAT DON ANAS....(I.E. SOMOZA) IS RETIRING."

K. SEPT. 24, PAGE 2. AN EDITORIAL BY LA PRENSA CO-DIRECTOR PABLO ANTONIO CUADRA ASSERTING THAT WITH THE RETURN OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION NICARAGUANS HAVE RECOVERED HALF THEIR FREEDOMS, BUT THAT THEY STILL HAVE TO RECOVER THE OTHER HALF.

3. FSLN DEFENDANTS TURNED OVER TO CIVIL COURTS. ON SEPT 23 THE GN ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRISONERS WHO WERE BEING INVESTIGATED FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND RELATED CRIMES BY THE PERMANENT MILITARY

COURT OF INVESTIGATION HAD ALREADY BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE CIVIL COURTS. CHARLOTTE BALDODANA DE ESPINOZA WILL BE TRIED IN THE SECOND CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT IN MANAGUA, EDDY MOISES CONZALEZ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE TRIED IN THE MATAGALPA CRIMINAL COURT, ROGER UREY MONTOYA AND ANIBAL ESPINALES OLIVAS WILL BE TRIED IN THE JINOTEGA COURT, AND GABRIEL CHAVARRIA FRANCO WILL BE TRIED IN THE CHINADEGA CRIMINAL COURT.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESS CONTINUES TO HAVE FREEDOM TO PUBLISH CRITICAL ARTICLES AND EXPOSES THAT IT COULD NOT PUBLISH EARLIER UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE. ALSO, THE GON HAS CARRIED OUT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION OF TURNING OVER THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRISONERS TO CIVIL COURTS. FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

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